

WORKING WITH AQUAPANEL AND THERMAL AQUAPANEL

Wickes Aquapanel is a sheet material specially designed to act as a permanent backing board for tiles being bonded to partition walls, worksurfaces and even floors in areas subject to moist or humid conditions.

In such areas - bathrooms, shower areas, laundry areas and kitchens - virtually any other sheet material, plasterboard or chipboard

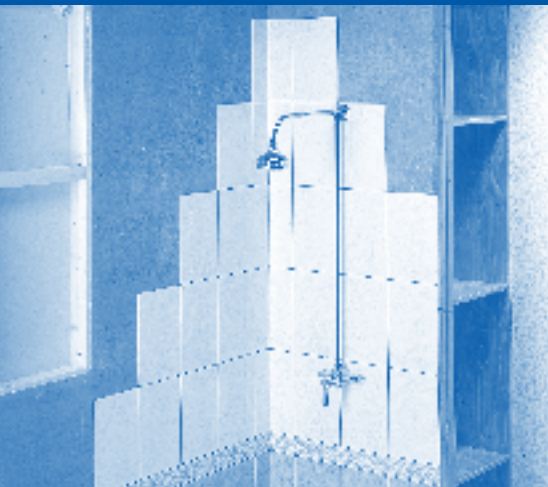
particularly, would soon begin to deteriorate resulting in the tiles falling off.

Thermal Aquapanel is a lightweight insulated tile backing board developed specifically for use with tiled floors. It consists of a Polyfoam core with glass fibre reinforced polymer-modified cement faces.

Thermal Aquapanel is dimensionally stable, doesn't rot or warp and

provides excellent resistance to moisture. It also offers the additional benefit of a high level of thermal insulation, making it the ideal substrate for floor tiling and undertile heating systems.

Wickes Aquapanel Joint Tape and Wickes Aquapanel or Thermal Aquapanel Screws must be used in the fixing process to ensure best practice.



So often when walls are built for shower cubicles, for example, finding a suitable board that will not suffer from moisture absorption and subsequent breakdown is difficult, but Aquapanel provides the answer to this and many other similar 'damp' situations.

Wickes Aquapanel is a cement-based board with glass mesh reinforcement on each side and it will not deteriorate even if fully immersed in water, which is an excellent indication of its strength. Yet it is easy to cut and work with.

Wickes Aquapanel Screws have special drill bit tips making them suitable for fixing Wickes Aquapanel to steel up to 0.7mm thick or timber. A ceramic coating ensures that they will never rust. (Corrosion to ordinary screws could lead to 'tile popping').

Wickes Aquapanel Tape is an alkali resisting fibreglass tape used to re-enforce all joints in the Wickes Aquapanel. It is embedded into tile adhesive immediately before tiling.

Wickes Aquapanel is available in one sheet size 900 x 1200mm and is 12.5mm thick.

Major features of the board are:

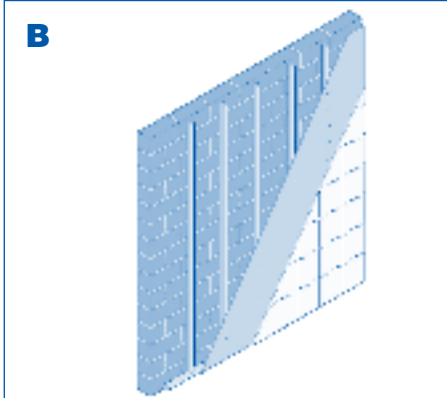
- Fire Resistance to Class 0 and is non combustible
- Very strong even when wet
- Designed for tiling purposes - wall or floor
- Ideal for use in stud partition walling in moist areas
- Is normally mechanically fixed
- Unaffected by normal domestic temperature extremes and changes
- Can be cut by knife or a fine toothed saw
- Lightweight at only 14.6 kg/m²

The most common uses for Wickes Aquapanel are, undoubtedly, as the facing for new partition walling in bathrooms prior to wall tiling, as a base for floor tiles where the existing sub-floor is not solid or is not in good condition and for providing a sound base for tiling worksurfaces.

For details on Thermal Aquapanel please refer to page 3.

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- Check that your Good Idea Leaflets are kept up to date. Leaflets are regularly changed to reflect product changes so keep an eye on issue dates.
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In all cases it is important to stress that all the rules regarding tiling must be followed and the correct type of tiles must be used. When tiling a worktop, for example, the tiles must be tough enough to withstand knocks - dropped cups and plates - and able to withstand heat if pots and pans are to be placed on the tiles. This generally means that the tiles used for worktops are floor tiles rather than wall tiles.

Partition Walling and Wall Tiling

Our Good Idea leaflet No. 7 explains, in detail, how to build a timber stud partition wall. For Aquapanel fit studs at 400mm centres.

Bearing in mind that most shower trays are 800mm wide this spacing may need adjusting if you intend to fit any shower components in the centre of the new tiled wall such as a shower mixer or sprayhead. In this sort of situation plan ahead and fit the studs to each side of the affected area simply ensuring that the centre to centre spacing is no more than 400mm. You would need one extra stud to achieve this adaptation.

Also consider that, if fitting a shower enclosure, the mechanical fixings for the vertical rails should not be within 10mm of

a tiled edge. Therefore, make the partition wall a little wider, say 825mm.

Cut the Aquapanel to size using a fine toothed saw, **Diagram A**, or score the surface with a sharp trimming knife then snap the board along the scored line. If scoring and snapping you will need to cut the mesh on the underside before the panel will fully separate. The product is cement based so it is recommended that, when cutting, a nose and mouth dust mask should be worn to avoid the inhalation of dust particles. Rough edges caused by sawing or snapping can be smoothed using a rasp or similar tool. A plane can be used but the blade will become blunt quite quickly.

The Aquapanel is secured to the partition wall using Wickes 40mm Aquapanel screws at 200mm centres and not closer to the edge of the board than 12mm. Commence fitting from the centre and work outward to the edges.

You can use Wickes Aquapanel to provide a good level tile background on a solid wall which is in poor condition, perhaps where old tiles have been hacked off taking some of the plaster or render with them. Screw or nail timber battens - use Wickes pre-treated sawn softwood - to the wall vertically at 400mm centres and horizontally at the top and bottom of the wall. Pack out the timbers where necessary to ensure that it is all aligned. Use a straightedge to check this vertically, horizontally and diagonally. Secure the panels to the battening using 40mm Aquapanel screws at 200mm centres. Panels should be lightly butted, leaving a 2-3mm gap. The joints are later filled with tile adhesive. **Diagram B**.

Immediately before tiling, work Wickes Waterproof Tile Adhesive into the butt joints and apply a thin coating on the surface of the boards along the line of the joints. Bed Wickes Aquapanel Tape into this adhesive to re-enforce the joint.

Tile in the normal way using a Wickes Waterproof Tile Adhesive, and then grout. Our Good Idea leaflet No. 37 gives valuable advice on tiling.

Floor Lining

Kitchen, bathroom and laundry room floors are often repeatedly wetted and, on non-solid floors. If there is a breakdown of the waterproof grout or a cracked tile, this will lead to the tiles eventually lifting when water gets through to the timber, chipboard or plywood sub-floor causing it to swell and twist.

Using Wickes Aquapanel as an underlay will eliminate most of the problems associated with damp penetration, especially on suspended timber floors.

The key to success is to provide a backing for the tiles and adhesive, which in the event of a breakdown prevents moisture reaching the sub-floor, and Aquapanel is ideal for achieving this.

The sub-floor must already be strong enough to take the additional weight of the floor tiles without any deflection taking place. If there is any movement tiling will not be successful. You may have to strengthen the floor using minimum 18mm thick exterior grade plywood.

The best possible way to fit the panels is to initially bed them onto a 6mm thickness of Wickes Ceramic Floor Tile Adhesive applied with a notched spreader to form a level base. Lay the panels into the adhesive with staggered joints - brickwork pattern - and secure with Aquapanel screws at maximum 200mm centres around the perimeters and across the boards. Lightly butt the boards and leave a 15mm gap around the outer perimeter of the room. These joints will later be filled with more tile adhesive. Make sure that the floor is level then leave it for about 24 hours for the adhesive to dry out. Screws will not be needed if bonding to a solid floor.

Using the guidelines laid out in our Good Idea leaflet No. 37, mark out the floor and tile, using a waterproof adhesive and grout. **Diagram C**.

It is important that any sub-floor, solid concrete or suspended timber, is level and without projections that would prevent the panels sitting flat even on the 6mm adhesive bed.

Worksurfaces

Wickes Aquapanel should be laid onto a solid surface such as ply/chipboard. Aquapanel is not designed as a load bearing board so can not be spanned across timber studs and have a weight applied. It is purely acting as a tile backer and the ply/chipboard should be of the correct thickness to support any weight being applied such as appliances, and people leaning on the worktop. To prepare non-laminated work-surfaces for tiling cut and fit Wickes Aquapanel to the surfaces simply by screw fixing with Wickes Aquapanel Screws at 200mm centres. Tile and grout as for flooring. Edges are best finished with timber fillets to cover the old worktop, the Aquapanel and the tiles. To avoid nail heads showing the fillets could well be secured in place with Wickes Forget Nails adhesive.

Important

Floor lining and work surface joints, between boards should be taped as described previously in the wall tiling section.

Thermal Aquapanel

Thermal Aquapanel is a lightweight insulated tile backing board developed specifically for use with tiled floors. It consists of a Polyfoam core with glass fibre reinforced polymer-modified cement faces.

Thermal Aquapanel is dimensionally stable, doesn't rot or warp and provides excellent resistance to moisture. It also offers the additional benefit of a high level of thermal insulation, making it the ideal substrate for floor tiling and undertile heating systems.

It has several advantages over traditional substrates:

- Full resistance to moisture absorption and subsequent breakdown
- Lightweight and easy to handle
- A dry process thus eliminating unnecessary delays associated with floor screeds
- No need for special tools, saving you time and money
- Keyed surface ready to receive tile adhesive
- Vermin and rotproof
- Light and easy to work with

Thermal Aquapanel is extremely light (2.6kg/m^2). It's easy to cut (using fine tooth saw, jigsaw or trimming knife, for example) and to work with. As Thermal Aquapanel has cement-based faces you should wear a nose and mouth mask when cutting to prevent particle inhalation.

Panels are 1200 x 600 x 10mm

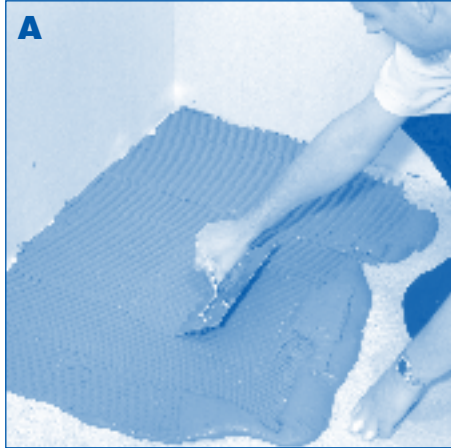
On solid concrete floors the benefit comes from preventing heat loss downward to the sub-floor.

Tiled floors often get wet and on suspended timber floors this will eventually lead to tiles lifting as the grout and adhesive breaks down and water gets through to the timber sub-floor causing it to swell and warp. Using Thermal Aquapanel will eliminate many of the problems associated with damp penetration, especially on suspended timber floors, whilst also providing insulation against heat loss.

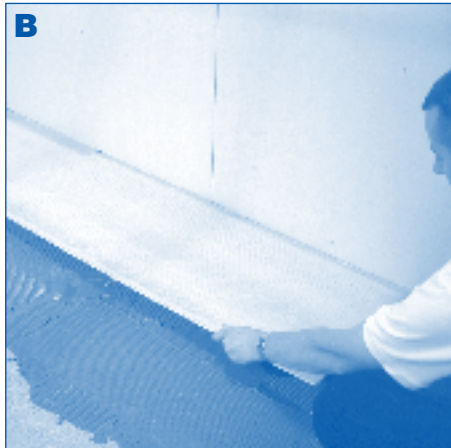
How to Lay Thermal Aquapanel

Thermal Aquapanel can be laid on concrete or timber sub-floors. Both must be strong enough to take the additional weight of the panels, adhesive and floor tiles without any movement. If in any doubt you should contact a suitable qualified person for advice.

Sub-floors, whatever the type, must be sound and flat so that the panels sit flat on the surface. If fixing onto floorboards any loose boards must be secured using screws not nails ensuring that these are not driven into pipes or cables below the surface. On concrete floors any old tiles and adhesive must be removed to create a clean, dry flat surface. New concrete floors must be allowed to dry/ cure, this takes around one week per inch depending on site conditions. The panels are bedded on a bed of flexible cement based ceramic tile adhesive - ready mixed adhesives must not be used. **Diagram A**



Lay the panels onto the adhesive with staggered joints, similar to those found in brickwork. **Diagram B**

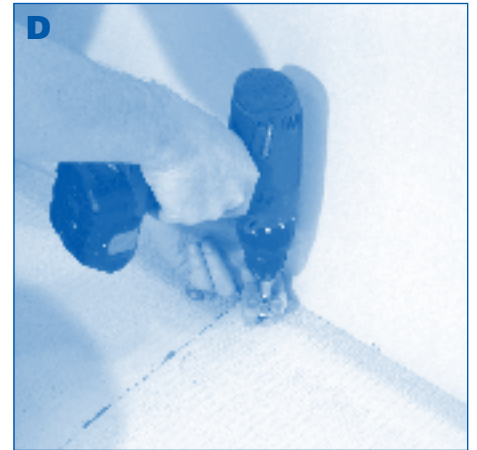


Lightly butt the panels together ensuring that they are level and ensure that there is a 3mm gap around the perimeter of the room. **Diagram C**

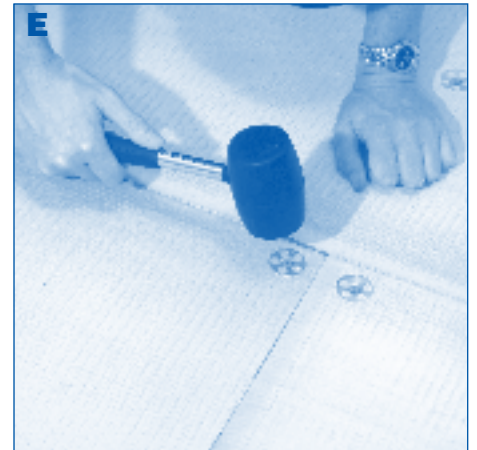


On suspended timber floors secure the panels with fixings at the rate of five per m^2 , making sure that they are a minimum of 30mm from the edge of the panels.

Diagram D

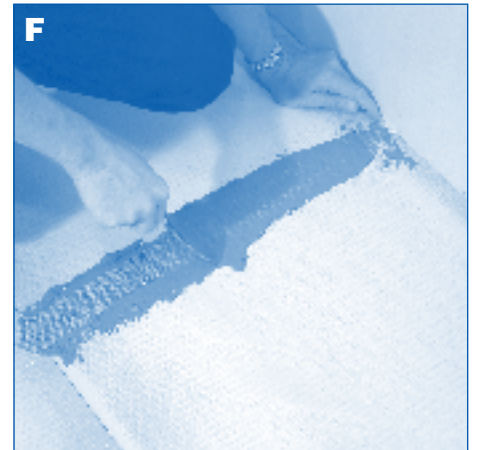


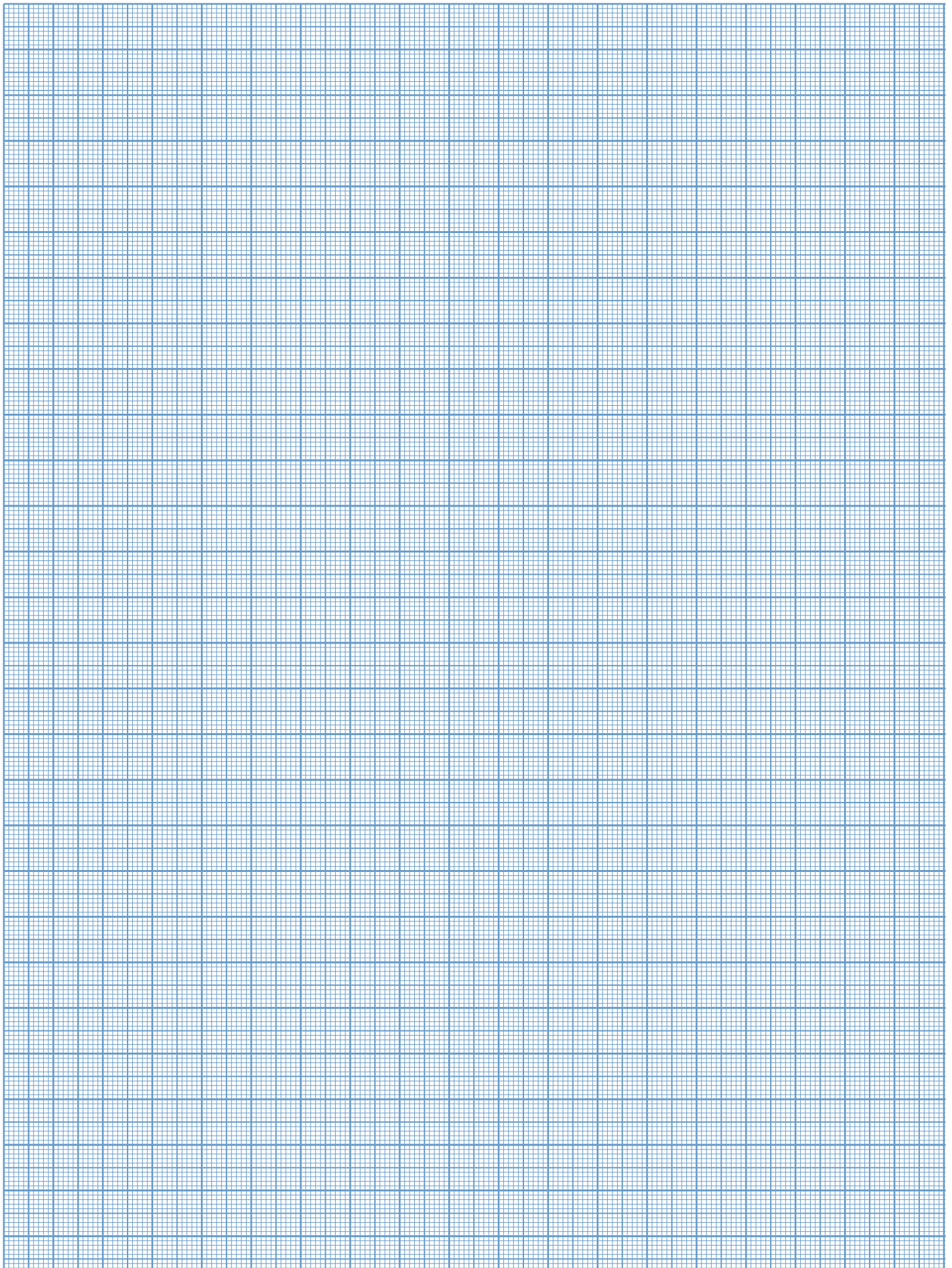
Tighten the fixing screws and use a rubber mallet to drive the washer flush with the panel, then re-tighten the screw. Make sure the floor is still level and leave the adhesive to set. **Diagram E**



Fill joint with adhesive and bed Aquapanel Joint Tape into it whilst still wet, allow to set and then follow instructions to lay Undertile Warming System or tiles.

Diagram F





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